

Message Text

PAGE 01 CANBER 00004 310121Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1404

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPACREP CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4213

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SEATO, AS

SUBJ: PRELIMINARY AUSTRALIAN COMMENTS ON SECGEN'S
REPORT ON ROLE AND STRUCTURE OF SEATO

REF: BANGKOK 11386

1. DURING CONVERSATION ON OTHER SUBJECT JULY 30 BIRCH
(ASST. SECY, DEFENSE POLICY BRANCH, DFA) PROVIDED
SOME PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON SEATO SECRETARY GENERAL'S
REPORT ON ROLE AND STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION (REFTEL).

2. BIRCH NOTED THAT REPORT IS 51 PAGES LONG, WHICH WILL
MAKE ITS ABSORPTION AND STUDY DIFFICULT IN EIGHT WEEKS
REMAINING BEFORE SEATO COUNCIL MEETING IN NEW YORK
SEPT 28. HE SAID THAT, WHILE OTHER AUSTRALIAN DEPART-
MENTS'S VIEWS HAVE NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED AND GENERAL
CONCLUSIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN DRAWN, HE HAD IMPRESSION
THAT SECRETARY GENERAL HAD RESHUFFLED, RATHER THAN
REDUCED SEATO FUNCTIONS. SECRETARY GENERAL, IN HIS
REVIEW, SAID HE WANTS TO KEEP EXISTING SEATO PLANS
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PAGE 02 CANBER 00004 310121Z

AND REVIEW THEM EVERY SIX MONTHS. BIRCH SAID THIS IS
NOT RPT NOT AUSTRALIAN VIEW.

3. BIRCH ASKED HOW SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT SHOULD

BE HANDLED. COUNCIL CANNOT UNDERTAKE MAJOR DRAFTING
JOB ITSELF, PARTICULARLY ON BASIS OF SUCH A LONG REPORT
FROM SECGEN. EMBOFF REPLIED HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON
SUBJECT BUT SUGGESTED THAT PLACE TO UNDERTAKE DRAFTING
OF FUTURE PROGRAM FOR SEATO ACTIVITY IS PWG IN BANGKOK,
USING SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT AND OTHER MATERIAL
AVAILABLE TO PWG AS POINTS OF REFERENCE.
HARROP

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